of the National Committee, protesting against the assessments
and begging that they be discouraged.

Throughout the campaign Mr. Schurz spoke with all his
earnest dignity and eloquence for the side to which he had
committed himself. At the same time he was in close and fre-
quent communication with the candidate, ready to counteract
any influences unfavorable to reform. Tilden had so strong
a record as a reformer that the Republican cause seemed, as
the campaign approached its crisis, to be in serious peril. To
the shrewdest partisans, particularly Elaine and Morton and
Conkling, it appeared that the only hope of success lay in
emphasizing the Southern question and the possibility of rebel
triumph through Democratic success. Schurz labored energet-
ically against this view. His letters to Hayes were frequent
and urgent. He claimed that unless precedence should be given
to the reform issues, the Independent voters, eager for reform,
would go to Tilden. " The cry for a * change' is immensely
powerful. People say, Governor Hayes is an honest man,
but what good will it do to elect him if his administration is
controlled by Morton, Conkling, Cameron, Chandler, Elaine,
etc.—and off they go where they are sure of a "change/ I
could show you a number of letters from men of Republican
sympathy, of cool judgment and more or less prominence and
influence, who have taken or are inclined to take that course.
. . . I feel that the subject I am discussing with

you is a
delicate one, but I can speak about it with entire frankness and
candor, because I have HO ax of my own to grind. If you are
elected you will not find me among those who ask for or ex-
pect place or favor. I have been long enough in public positions
to become sensible of their worthlessness as an element of
human happiness, and especially since my recent bereavement
I have absolutely no ambition in that Une."